January 30, 2016

ICARC NEWSLETTER

Officers for 2016:
President - Doug Fitzsimmons K3LAB
Vice President - Ernest Clark KC3FVX
Treasurer - Terry Carnahan KB3JOD
Secretary - VACANT

Additional Board Members for 2016:
(Officers are automatically board members)
1. Dave Dzelsky N3DZ
2. Craig Bigler AB3XA
3. Jerry Kiehl WB3DUD
4. Phil Kopczyk K3PJ
5. Elmer Sorisio KB3WG
6. Larry Freeman N3LT

Remember to get your dues paid (There are no dues this coming year for those of you who attended the class in October 2015 and received a new license as a result)! There is a new dues structure: $35 for an Individual membership, $50 for a Family (two voting members in the same household), and $20 for a Student/Associate membership. Please visit the W3BMD website and download the application under the Club Info. Tab. If you don't regularly attend the meetings just mail the completed applcation along with payment (no cash, make checks payable to ICARC) to the address given on the application form.

LOCAL HAPPENINGS:
The January 5, 2016 meeting of ICARC went smoothly with discussion of various items of interest to the club. The meeting was smoothly led by Doug, our new president who asked for ideas for the coming year.

As most of you may know by now Rusty O'Donnell-WB3EUQ is not doing so well. Our prayers and best wishes are with him and his family. Also Twila Kerr , N3SJR, had a very close call with her medical issues. She spent considerable time in the hospital and is doing much better now. Our prayers and best wishes for a speedy and full recovery are with her.

UPCOMING EVENTS:
Tuesday, February 2, 2016 ICARC meets in the back room of Indiana Eat n' Park restaurant. The board meeting starts at 7:00 pm and the general meeting begins at 7:30 pm. There will be a special program by Joe George, N3YN talking about his ADS-B (Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast) radio system that he is currently working on as well as APRS and a few antennas that he has fabricated. I think the ADS-B system is probably new to most of us so we stand a chance of learning something! It should be very interesting so try to be there.

Possible upgrade class sometimes this year, so stay tuned....

Other Stuff:
Rick Lindquist, WW1ME reports in the February issue of QST p. 86 that there is a new ham in the US House of Representatives: Rep. Steve Pearce, KG5KIQ, (R-NM) is now the third ham. The others are Rep. Daniel Benishek, KB8TOW (R-MI) and Rep. Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR).

Also from the February, 2016 issue of QST p.13 Harold Kramer, WJ1B, reports that the ARRL Foundation provides over 80 scholarships annually to eligible radio amateurs. They range in value from $500 to $5000. More information may be found at **www.arrl.org/summary-of-scholarship-requirements.**

Repeat: From CQ we learn that the ARRL is increasing its annual dues by $10. This will make the dues $49 and take effect at the beginning of 2016. Also, an FCC decision now elevates the Amateur radio service from being a secondary to being the primary service across the 160 m band. The upper part of the band 1900-2000 kHz had been the primary domain of the radio-location service but has not been used for that purpose for years. In addition the frequency range has been authorized for the use on offshore buoys used by commercial fisherman. The latter has been going on, illegally, for many years with no significant complants to the FCC therefore they decided to make it legal rather than force the fishermen to install new buoys.

These changes were put into effect on August 6, 2015. **CQ Reports that the ARRL Board of Directors Adopts a New HF Band Plan change for 75/80 meters** at their July meeting. The ARRL will petition the FCC to reduce the phone portion of the band by 50 kHz and add 50 kHz to the CW/RTTY/DATA segment of the band. It will also seek to get RTTY and data priviledges on the band for Novices and Technicians. The 3600-3650 kHz segment, currently restricted to Extra Class phone, will be open to all for CW, RTTY, and data under the proposal. The petition will also seek RTTY/data priviledges for Novice and Technicians on 15 meters. There are a few other issues in the petition related to frequencies for automatically controlled data stations. **FCC Field Office closures**: Radio World reports that the FCC field office closures will include:Anchorage, Buffalo, Detroit, Houston, Kansas City, Norfolk, Philadelphia, San Diego, San Juan, Seattle, and Tampa. Operations will continue in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Columbia (MD), Dallas, Denver. Honolulu, Los Angeles, Miami, New Orleans, New York, Portland (OR), and San Francisco. In addition, there will be two Enforcement Bureau, rapid-response teams that work from the Denver, and Columbia offices. All field agents will now be required to be electrical engineers. **(The author comments about this latter requirement: This seems, in my opinion, to be a foolish requirement in that you really need experienced, practical folks working in the field and excluding some of the older, more experienced field agents based upon their formal education seems to me to be a serious mistake.) On the enforcement side of radio things,** CQ reports that the FCC has proposed a $22,000 fine against Michael Guarnsey, KZ8O, of Parchment, Michigan for repeated interference with other amateurs and failing to identify. Apparently, the infractions go back more than a decade and he ignored repeated written warnings. Additionally, the FCC proposed fining David Telassi, W4BHV, of Ringgold, Georgia, $1,000 for, repeatedly, failing to identify. There is bound to be a moral to this but just remember to treat others with respect and courteousness or as you would like to be treated over the air. **On the bright side**, CQ reports that, fifteen year old, Anna Veal, W0ANT, of Littleton, Colorado has been named both, the Newsline Young Ham of the Year and the ARRL's Hiram Percy Maxim awards recipient for 2015. Both of her parents are hams and she was first licensed at age 8 years. She currently holds a General Class license. **So for all you young folks out there, you don't have to be an old crumudgeon to enjoy the benefits of amateur radio!**

OTHER INFORMATION

(If anyone would like to include information or write an article for the Newsletter please let Larry Freeman, N3LT, know by email at: wd4hoz@gmail.com or wlf@auxmail.iup.edu) The only caveats are: The editor reserves the right to alter the format for publication purposes. The content may also be modified contingent upon accuracy and appropriateness of the contained material. The latter would, of course, be subject to the approval of the author.

Walter Dzelsky-W3NFY a founding member of ICARC, is currently in Scenery Hill Manor nursing home under Hospice Care. Our best wishes and prayers are with him.

Rusty O'Donnell-WB3EUQ – contact information:

Rusty is at the Hollidaysburg Veterans Home, a Pennsylvania state facility just south of Altoona. Please note that he is not in the Altoona VA Hospital. He is in Eisenhower Hall and it's nursing care. The phone number for his room is (814) 695-1635. You may call at anytime. He does have a cell phone. For his cell phone (724) 388-1202.

Rusty's mailing address is :

David O'Donnell *(David is his actual name)*
P.O. Box 319
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648

If you go to see Rusty: When you get to Eisenhower Hall (the large building with the WWII tank in front of it, as you first come onto the grounds) You will need to sign in at the Security desk – they will direct you to his unit, North 2. The security guards have room charts and know the residents.

Minutes of January 5, 2016 ICARC Meeting

Attendees:

Bigler-AB3XA
Jerry Kiehl-WB3DUD
Dave Steiner-KA3KFA
Larry Freeman-N3LT
Bill McMillen-N3QM
Doug Fitzsimmons-K3LAB, President
Dave Dzelsky-N3DZ
Phil Kopczyk-K3PJ
Terry Carnahan-KB3JOD, Treasurer
Ernest Clark-KC3FVX, Vice President
Joe Rankin-KC3CDG
Denny Clark-KB3HZM
Dave Overdorf-KC3DTH
Marcia Malcolm-KD4ITP
Elmer Sorisio-KB3WG
Alton Strong-N3PHL
Fred Maize-KM3M

Guests: NONE

Call to Order: Doug Fitzsimmons (K3LAB)
The "Board" meeting started at about 7:00 PM. The time was used for general discussion and to set up audio equipment.

Doug called the general meeting to order at 7:30 pm. He discussed the meeting procedure and how he would like the general membership to participate in coming up with ideas for activities for the coming year. He wants this meeting to be part of a planning session for the upcoming year. This is covered under New Business below.

Doug asked that the previous meeting minutes be discussed and approved. Craig Bigler (AB3XA) moved to accept the minutes and Joe Rankin (KC3CDG) seconded the motion. The Motion was voted upon and carried unanomously.

Treasurer's Report: Terry, Treasurer, presented a detailed financial report for December and for the Year 2015. He also reported that ICARC has 30 paid members. Fred Maize (KM3M) made a motion to accept the financial report as presented and without further discussion the motion was seconded by Dave Dzelsky (N3DZ) . The report was voted upon and accepted with one abstension.

Repeater Update: Elmer Sorisio (KB3WG), Craig Bigler (AB3XA)
The repeater shut itself down again, this time while being used. Elmer, Craig, and Joe went to the site and disabled the Arcom controller so that the repeater is using its internal controller for now and operating at 50 Watts (full power). We know that the ARCOM is causing the strange background noise, so it may be causing other issues. By disconnecting it, it can be ruled out or established as the culprit causing the repeater to stop functioning. Yaesu has been contacted and they are looking into the issue.

ARES and Monday Night Net Update: Dave Steiner (KA3KFA)
Dave reported the good news that there were twenty six check-ins on the Monday night net, on January 4, 2016.

ACS and Monday Night NBEMS Update: Terry Carnahan (KB3JOD)
Nothing on NBEMS but FEMA is working on something and have a conference scheduled for May14-18.

Old Business:
Dave Steiner, KA3KFA, notified us that the club received $155.54 from the December Hoss' fundraiser and Christmas dinner.

New Business:
Doug wants this meeting to be part of a planning session for the coming year and to that end he passed around sheets for folks to put some ideas on paper so that they could be briefly considered without extensive details and discussions at this time. The usual activities such as MS walk, Hoss' Fundraiser dinners, Field Day, and the Airport Festival were essentially agreed upon to be viable activities. Also considered were a Winter Field Day and an upgrade class, probably in the Fall. Discussion of scouting events (Klondyke derby, Mall show, Spring Camporee, Day camp, Summer camp, Fall Camporee, JOTA) began but quickly got bogged down in details so no decisions about them were made. Other ideas that were put forth: Fox hunt, hamfest, Veteran's Day parade, Repeater site cleanup continued. ARES Classes and ACS demonstrations, PA QSO Party as a club. There are many things to be discussed. No formal decisions were made except relative to Field day; A motion was put forth by Bill McMillen (K3QM) to hold Field day in June at Blue Spruce Park. There was no additional discussion. It was seconded by Larry Freeman (N3LT) and the vote to accept was unanimous. Doug will contact the Bluespruce park administrator's assistant, Denny Preisser (KC3DTB) to try and make reservations for field day. Larry will send him the necessary email address. Fred (KM3M) suggested that we try and get additional space for field day and pointed out that the park is already significantly committed for the month of June. Fred also presented an Indiana County calendar of events for the month of June. The details of the full discussion is not included here but it was recorded for archival use as necessary (The audio file (MP3) is about 60 Mbytes in size).

Donations: $38.00

Adjournment:
Larry Freeman (N3LT) made a motion to adjourn and Joe Rankin (KC3CDG) seconded the motion. Doug Fitzsimmons (K3LAB) adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:45 pm local time.

Respectfully Submitted by Larry Freeman (N3LT), Temporary Secretary for January 5, 2016